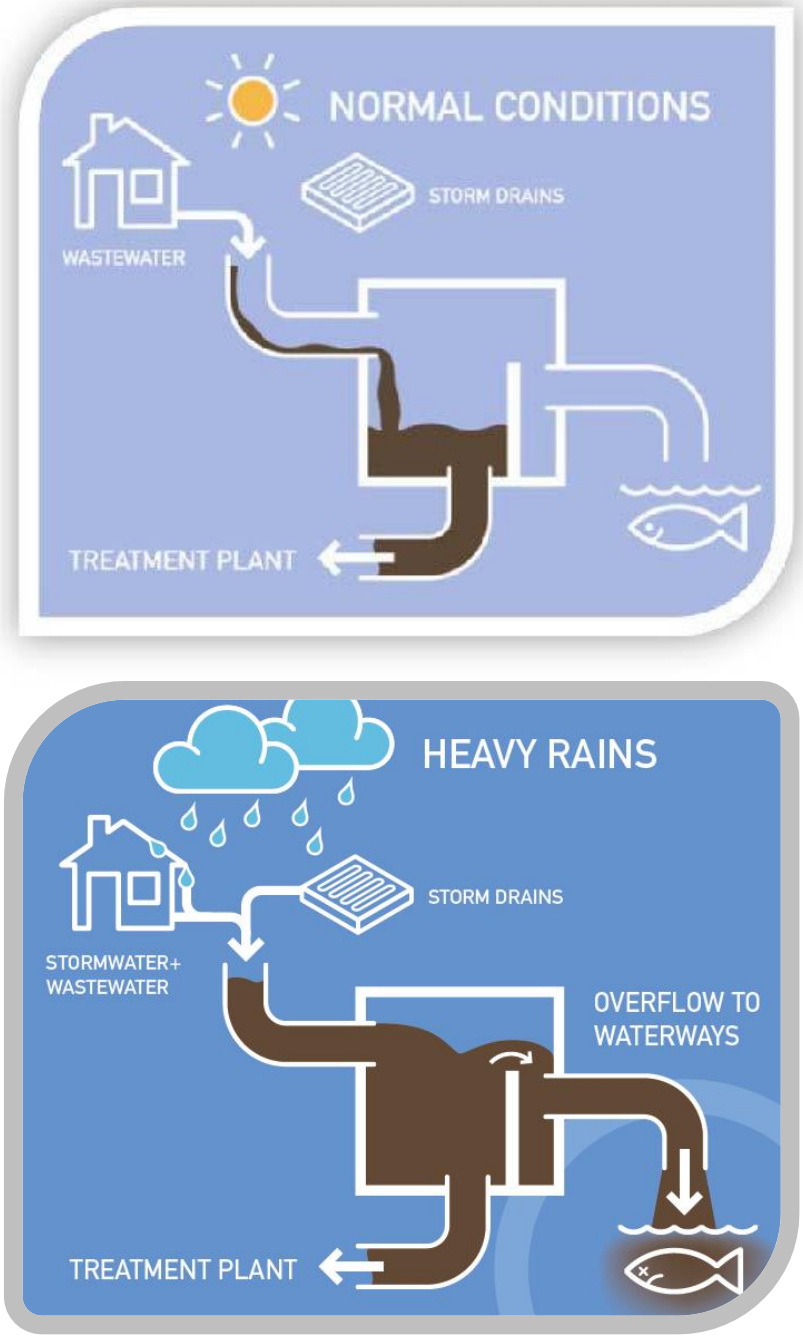
Henderson North Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction Project

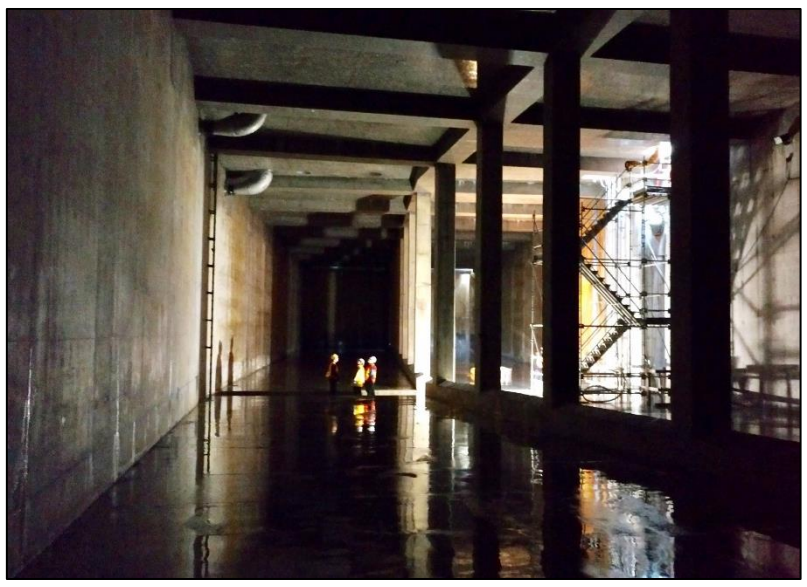
What are “combined sewers”? Why are they a problem?

Sewer pipes in Seattle carry sewage (wastewater) away from homes and buildings for treatment at King County’s treatment plants before discharging to Puget Sound. In some neighborhoods, the same sewer pipes also carry untreated rain water (stormwater) from roofs, drains and streets. During heavy rains, if the amount of sewage and stormwater exceeds the sewer system capacity, the excess flows overflow into nearby water bodies and can harm fish, wildlife and swimmers. This is called a combined sewer overflow *(illustrated in graphics right)*.



How will the storage facility help?

The new 2.65-million-gallon, odor-controlled storage tank underneath the new tennis courts in Seward Park will hold excess stormwater and sewage during rain events to reduce the frequency and volume of overflows into Lake Washington. Once a storm passes, the flow is slowly pumped back into the sewer system, and the tank is flushed clean



Interior of new storage tank during construction

Project benefits

This project was designed to protect Lake Washington from stormwater and sewage overflows, which helps keep people and marine life healthy.

- **Before the project:** From 1998 to 2011, the outfall pipe at Seward Park had approximately 17 overflow events per year, with an average annual volume of about 37 million gallons of untreated flows
- **After the project:** The new storage tank was designed to limit overflows to an average of one event per year

The Henderson North project is one of several projects SPU is undertaking to protect our local waterways. Learn more about these projects at: www.seattle. gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/Projects/SewageOverflowPrevention/